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EDITORIALS*

INITIATIVES 9 (CHIROPRACTIC) AND 17 (NATUROPATHIC)

Before this November issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE finds its place in the mails, the electorate of the State of California will have gone to the polls and given its verdict on two proposed laws—Initiative 9 (Chiropractic) and Initiative 17 (Naturopathic). The official journal of non-sectarian, scientific medicine in California can only express the hope that, by a large and decisive vote, the citizens of the Golden State will have rejected these two initiatives. If, however, as with other movements in these troublous times, the verdict of the people shall prove to have been otherwise, it will then become the duty of organized medicine to decide what policies should be adopted, both for the present and also, in so far as possible, for the future.

It is sincerely to be wished for that each and every member of the California Medical Association was alert to his responsibilities, and that all did their utmost in promoting the efforts to safeguard the citizens of the State from laws which, no matter how high-sounding in words,

* Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comments column, which follows.

if enacted would bring about retrogression in healing-art standards and practice; with saddest results, however, not to the medical profession, but to the lay public itself.

To all who lent a hand in the campaign just closed, the thanks, not only of the California Medical Association, but of scientific and non-sectarian medicine-at-large. So much, for the present, on this subject.

A DUTY OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

At this year's annual session of the California Medical Association at Riverside, the House of Delegates (after serious discussion, which lasted into the morning hours) voted that a sickness survey in California should be made, and approved the plan for a Committee of Five to supervise the study.

That committee has been hard at work, but finds lack of coöperation on the part of many members of the medical profession.

Questionnaires of an impersonal and confidential character have been sent to the licensed physicians of California, but to date, only about 10 per cent have sent in their replies!

To be of real factual value, such a study of medical economics in California must call for replies to a total of about 80 per cent and, as already stated, up to the present time only 10 per cent of the answers required have been received by the committee.

In short, at this date (only two months before the day when the 1935 California legislature will convene to hear the report of its own Senate Interim Committee) we ourselves—that is, nine out of every ten of us—are so grossly negligent that unless we give more evidence of coöperation it will be impossible to compile a report of the kind we have demanded; and through such non-coöperation we will throw away practically the thousands of dollars which it has thus far been necessary to lay out in order to create the groundwork for an accurate and comprehensive report.

These words are written at the request of the Committee of Five on Survey, which is *your committee*, and which *you* have created to take charge of this work. We regret that we must seem to chide, but the issues at stake are so important that, on behalf of the Committee and also the Officers of our Association, we appeal to every member who has not sent in his questionnaire blank to fill out the blank immediately and give the matter his earliest, proper attention.

Here in California we must be true to the faith and carry our respective shares of mutual burdens. Failure in this effort to make a real survey for California would give others the right to call us "An Organization of Non-coöperators." We know that we do not deserve such an appellation, and if in this each member of the California Medical Association will only do his bit, there will be no need of remorse later on.

In conclusion: please fill in your Questionnaire and send it at once to the Committee of Five!!